

using the radio more and so that it allows radio to compete more favorably with television and newspapers, and they are finding that that is their biggest competition is the television and the newspapers and it is not other radio stations. So by turning to public radio and turning to the FM dial, they are finding that more people are actually listening to radio. So I don't think that is a very good argument either. I think we do need access to public radio in greater Nebraska because I...fortunately I have some access to public radio because the States of Wyoming and Colorado both have public radio so I can pick up some of those stations but I would like to see Nebraska have that. I think Nebraska can be very proud of its public TV system and I think we should also have a public radio system to go along with this, and I think that this is just enabling legislation, it is just permissive legislation, and I think it would be a good thing for this body to pass. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Rod Johnson, please. Senator Rod Johnson, then Senator Vickers.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I think Senator Baack has covered many of the points that I was going to cover in responding to Senator Abboud's questions. He did raise a point that I think is viable and that is the cost and I tried to cover that in my opening in saying that the cost of this program at this particular point is absolutely nothing, zero, but there is potential for costs in time as we develop this system and, hopefully, improve upon it, but that will have to go as much through the legislative process as all of the legislation goes through and the Appropriations Committee will then make an appropriate choice as to what level we should fund it if any requests should come in. With that, Mr. President, that is really all I wanted to comment on but I do know that Senator Hartnett had asked to utilize part of my time and I would relinquish the remainder of my time to Senator Hartnett.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I simply rise to support LB 461. I guess since I have started serving in the Legislature, I have grown to listen to public radio which broadcasts from Omaha Public Schools as I drive to Lincoln every day and sometimes in the evenings. So I simply...there is no cost to the state and I think we should